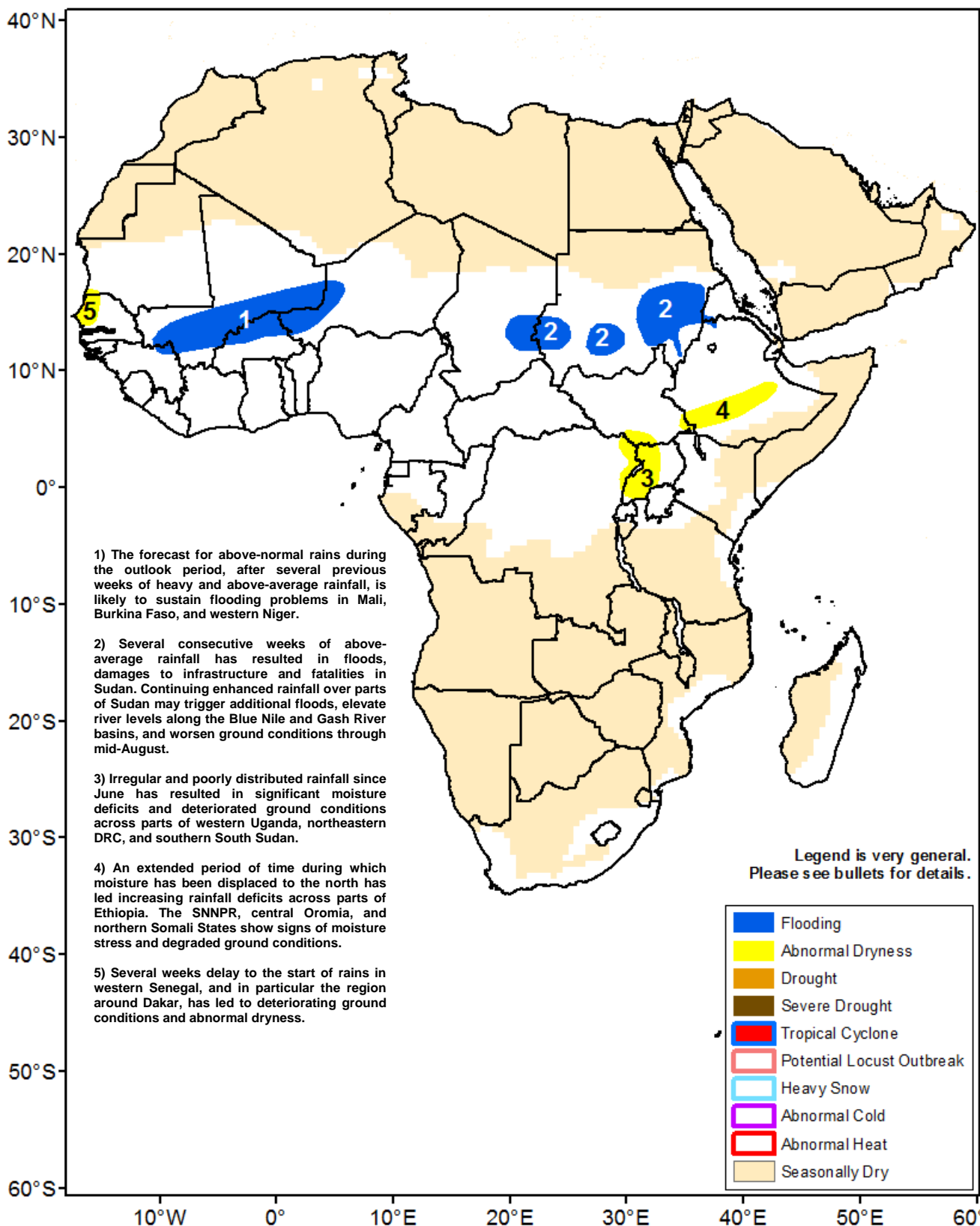




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook August 16 – August 22, 2018

- Enhanced rains received over the Sahel during the last week have led to flooding.
- Moisture deficits continue to quickly strengthen over several regions of Ethiopia.



Western Senegal continues to miss out on the heavy rains many other parts of West Africa are receiving.

During the second week of August, locally heavy rainfall accumulations were received throughout several West African nations including Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, and northern Benin. Moisture continued to surge far northward into desert areas of northern Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Algeria (**Figure 1**). Several reports of flooding have come out of southern Algeria and Niger. Along the Gulf of Guinea, southern portions of Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana received only light and scattered rainfall.

As of late-July, the performance of the West Africa monsoon continues to be favorable, with much of the domain experiencing average to above-average precipitation over both short and long-term timescales. Since the beginning of June, the highest moisture surpluses remain along the Sahel, where portions of southern Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad have experienced more than twice their normal rainfall accumulation (**Figure 2**). Towards the south, positive seasonal anomalies remain more moderate and are trending negative in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, and Ghana. Parts of northeastern Nigeria and western Senegal depict drier than average conditions. Some local parts of western Senegal failed to receive the increase in precipitation that other parts of the country had in July, as areas near Dakar have registered little to no rainfall since the beginning of July according to satellite estimated rainfall and rain gauge measurements. This rainfall pattern is leading to degradation of vegetation health for these areas.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest another week of average to above-average rainfall throughout much of West Africa. The highest weekly accumulations (>100mm) are forecast for parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria. There is potential for another week of decreased rainfall amounts over western parts of Senegal, as well as along the Gulf of Guinea coast.

30-day rainfall deficits are deepening and expanding across Ethiopia

Rainfall increased in magnitude over Eastern Sudan, northern Ethiopia, and Eritrea compared to the previous week. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest rainfall totals were greater than 100mm (**Figure 1**). The continuation of moderate to heavy rainfall over saturated areas means the risk for floods and other adverse ground impacts across the region remains high. While most seasonally active areas of Ethiopia received light to moderate rains, totals were 10-50mm below normal.

While portions of eastern Sudan and northern Ethiopia have continued to experience above-average seasonal rainfall, there are many other areas that have experienced a rapid strengthening of anomalous dryness during the past several weeks. 30-day moisture deficits now exceed 100mm over several local areas of western and central Ethiopia. Some parts of the SNNP, Gambela, and Oromia regions, as well as parts of the Afar region and neighboring eastern Eritrea have experienced less than half of their normal rainfall since the beginning of July (**Figure 2**). In parts of western Uganda, northeastern DRC and southern South Sudan, significant moisture deficits and poor ground conditions have been identified according to remote sensing products. Some local areas have recorded fewer than 7 days of rain since mid-July. The continuation of suppressed rainfall is expected to adversely impact ongoing cropping activities.

Precipitation models suggest the potential for above-average rainfall during the next week over southwestern Sudan. Near-average rain is expected elsewhere, possibly providing a reprieve to saturated portions of eastern Sudan.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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